

CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A system for teaching phonics, comprising:
a visual representation of a plurality of words using ordinary spelling[[,]]; and
adjacently positioned clarifying symbols, wherein each clarifying symbol that consists primarily or entirely of [[the]] underlined or non-underlined letters of a standard alphabet are used assist in sounding out the words.
2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the clarifying symbols are omitted for at least some of the letters, assist in sounding out at least part of each of the plurality of words.
3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein at least 90% of the clarifying symbols consists of letters in the standard letters alphabet compose the clarifying symbols.
4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein all of the clarifying symbols consist of standard letters entirely of 24 letters of the English alphabet.
5. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the standard letters and the clarifying symbols together comprise an initial teaching alphabet consisting of less than 44 phonograms.
6. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the standard letters and the clarifying symbols together comprise an initial teaching alphabet consisting of 36 phonograms.
7. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising wherein a prompt to shows when a plurality of the letters form a blended sound.
8. (currently amended) The system of claim 7 wherein the prompt comprises underlining of a line under the plurality of the letters.
9. (original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a coloration of a selected one of the standard letters to show that such letter is silent in the word.

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising a modification of a selected one of the standard letters to show that such letter ~~the selected letter is either silent or sounds according to the adjacent phonetic symbol.~~

11. (currently amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the modification comprises ~~representing the selected letter using a particular coloration; colorizing the selected letter.~~

12. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein differences in case of the letters are not used to represent differences in sound.

13. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the adjacently positioned clarifying symbols are placed below corresponding ones of the standard letters of at least some of the words.

14. (original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a reading assist card having a window sized and dimensioned to focus attention on a subset of the words and corresponding ones of the adjacently positioned clarifying symbols.

15. (currently amended) An initial teaching alphabet consisting substantially of the letters a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, Z, and combinations of the letters, in which words are regularly written using their ordinary spellings. A method of teaching phonetic reading, comprising:

presenting to a student an alphabet of phonetic symbols consisting of underlined and non-underlined letters selected from the group consisting of a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, Z;

presenting to the student a word with an ordinary spelling; and
teaching the student to pronounce the word using the alphabet of phonetic symbols.

16. (currently amended) [[A]] The method of teaching phonetic reading comprising using the initial teaching alphabet of claim 15, wherein phonetic symbols consisting of single letters correspond to ~~in which single ones of the letters represent corresponding short vowel sounds.~~

17. (currently amended) [[A]] The method of teaching phonetic reading comprising using the initial teaching alphabet of claim 15, wherein phonetic symbols consisting of more than one letter ~~in which combinations of the letters represent long vowel sounds.~~

18. (currently amended) [[A]] The method of teaching phonetic reading comprising displaying a line of words with ordinary spelling, and using symbols of the initial teaching alphabet of claim 15 to accompany some of the letters of the words further comprising displaying a line of words with ordinary spelling to the student to accompany at least one of the phonetic symbols.

19. (currently amended) [[A]] The method of claim 15, further teaching phonetic reading comprising displaying display a sentence of at least five words with ordinary spelling, and placing phonetic symbols of initial teaching alphabet the alphabet below selected ones of the words as aids in pronunciation of the selected words.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising displaying at least one of the words without a corresponding one of the pronunciation aids phonetic symbols.